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Written for the NEW ERA. On the Proclamation of the Fifteenth Amendment.

BY. W. H. J.

Justice decrees; the sovereign stamp of State Whose impress ratifies beyond repeal.

Attests her fiat. Hence inviolate.

Behold the earnest of a nation's weal-The potent balm a chronic wrong to heal-The peaceful triumph of enduring Right O'er stubborn circumstance and party zeal-The charter of a race, inferior hight, Compelled, till now, to grope in doleful civil night!

Erewhile, defied, a haughty nation spoke: A loyal host uprose with prompt accord, And 'mid the thunder-clash of war awoke Four million slaves; yet not by might of

Their fetters fell—'twas by a magic word.

Be man's the deed; but lo! by will of God,
The trampled reed, thus plucked, tho' ers Became, at once, a timely scourging rod, And staff wherewith a tott ring State its fall

'Tis past. The moulding hand of Time hath The nation's wounds. The dark, volcanic

Wherein heroic legions rushed and reeled Thro' seas of gore, 'mid flame and franti-Of arms, to death, hath closed. The rivals

Still mourn their slain, tho' not with lou Convulsing earth's and heaven's farthest While evergreens and marbles eloquent, To pilgrims, mark the martyr-host's lone tene-

'Tis past. The victor and the vanquished now Unite in holier bonds than those of yore; Where felled the sabre, glides the peaceful plough, But helot-tears enrich the soil no more. Unbound, yet still debarred and insecure,

Their strength was silence. Justice, long delayed, Is not thereby dethroned, but doubly sure. For her they've groped, and with the dawn

surveyed The prize, for which, thro' woful years, they've yearned and prayed. Their lowly prayer is heard; behold! once

The nation speaks-it is the voice Divine! Majority enacts; no clash and war Of fratricidal arms the just design

Frustrate; but legislative pens define
And press a dogma of the civic creed—
A truth that God and conscience e'er enjoin,
But erst, alas! obscured, belied in deed,
The equal right of men, whate'er their state or

'Tis done: and now Columbia's warrior chief. Whose stainless laurels deck the chair of state, laims, and thus completes, by mand That righteous scheme whose consummation

Denied the sainted martyr-magistrate.
'Tis done. Throughout the land, from freed and free, Soul-stirring pæans quick reverberate A million-voiced response—a jubilee Canght up by millions more in isles beyond the sea

In Southern town-in Northern capital-Where'er the swarthy race be found, appear The festive throng, or blithe processional— The transient tokens of a lasting cheer; While graver souls, no less in joy sincere, Round lowly altars, grand Te Deums raise, And hail the day, invoked persistent there With thanks to Him who in mysterious ways His mighty ends attains—who only merits praise.

And myriads lowlier still-yet not so low In heart, but that this universal glee
Elates their simple souls with thrilling glow—
In loft and cell, receive exultantly
That which, long dreamed, they never hoped

Far off, on old plantation-haunts, in cot And manse, low bends the patriarchal knee Once more great tidings cheer each lonely spot Where gloom no longer broods-where fetters

But hark! what are those tidings great?-and This wide, spontaneous joy-these scenes

What potency-high auspice rare, hath wrought

freak
Of Fate this lowly zeal and stir bespeak? No-'tis a prime event-a crisis vast Whose antecedent one in vain may seek On Time's earth-circling scroll—a mighty cast That elevates a race, and sinks a baneful Past.

Yea! they announce the Negro's civil birth Or, best, his legalized majority— The judication of his claims and worth— His right to live, to act, to rule, and be What Nature willed-to have what equity Prescribes-the privilege to shape and share A common weal reared on his misery. Henceforth he treads a new and nobler sphere, Wherein there's all to hope and gain-scarce aught to fear.

That turns a mighty nation's swift career-A fact that truth and reason must approve, Of vaster sign and scope than do appear To higher ends the destined pioneer. It is the moral triumph of an age Replete with staid reforms; yet, these declare No like advance on life's e'er-shifting stage, Nor leave so brilliant marks on Time's illustri-

It is an epoch grand-a solemn move

ous page. It is a boon of Liberty-the act

That solves a problem vexed and intricate. -The Statesman's fond Ideal shrined in Fact,-The mended Keystone in that arch of State. Whose living span, thus capped must soon Embrace a hemisphere. Yet, 'neath its dome, Cemented with their blood, and tears, and

The swarthy race no shelter had-no room Where foreign outcasts found an ever-ready

But now, at last, the glorious arch complete-Its grievous flaws repaired—the rubbish

Lo! in a sacred niche—the very seat Where erst the traitor-anarch sat and dared Appears one of that class by Mercy spared The direr fate the dread oppressor planned : The herald of his race, he but prepared The advent of this proclamation grand, Whose cheering echoes now vibrate from land t

Well done, Columbia! by this master-stroke, Thou hast not merely paid an ancient score, Nor filled a void, nor raised a galling yoke, But from thy scutcheon hast forever more Erased an odious stain. Now may'st thou soar Above thy sister Pow'rs, and urge thy boasts To be more free than they, more firm and pure

With pride; thou'st nothing lost; thou'st gain'd effective hosts.

Thou'st well decreed; r not thou'st been 'Twas all the Negro cra ed, nor strove to

What none but foes allege, and idiots dread. If "men are equal born"—in blood akin, Why need the Negro seek to "change his

Nay, rather, let him prove himself the man,— Exalt, not sink his hue and origin. Thou'st given the means; now, if indeed they can, Let Pride and Prejudice maintain their worth

And thon, O Race! no longer freed but free,
Arise! go forth and vindicate thy right.

Thy Past was sorrow; Darkness flung o'er thee
Her ghastly pall; but, lo! the glorious Light
Hath rises—rise! for 'tis no longer night.
Behold, at last, thine opportunity
Hath come, and dawns thy Future clear and
bright;
Arise! thou'st earned a fit immunity;

Advance! the first form discreet —a Unity

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WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1870.

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COMMUNICATIONS. All Articles appearing under this head are Original. The Liberty of Mind.

All the various modes of existence, whether they be contemplated in the atom that is imperceptible to the unassisted sight, or in the immense world that sets at nought the grasping power of vision-in the polypus, that possesses but sufficient vitality to preserve it from corruption, or in the Archangel, whose mysterious essence, triumphing over annihilation and piercing through myriads of ages, knows no boundary but that of eternity-all are resolvable into two-the spiritual and the material. Of these, one appears to be subordinated to the other. Sitting upon the throne of being, the spiritual seems always to have regarded the material, simply as the means for its own development. "The spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters:" and sought to manifest itself farther by finding, amid the incongruous mass of pre-creation, the germ of a new

Within the reach of our immediate observa-

BY E. R. N.

tion, the human mind is the representative of spiritual existence; the globe, upon which we live, is the symbol of material being. Here, too, we recognize the supremacy of spirit. Taking the earth as it came from the hand of its Maker, the mind of man has entirely remodelled it; has infused itself into it; and by drawing forth its hidden resources, and stamping itself upon its every part, has transformed it into a mighty mirror, in which the original elements are but dimly seem, and from which is reflected the image of the potent magician, that wrought the change. By triumphing over all the obstacles of space, and converting the rude and unshapen materials which are afforded it, into structures of grandeur and beauty, it has shown that the Genii flights and gorgeous creations of Oriental Tales are scarcely fantastic vagaries. By its stupendous executions, it has realized the fable of the Titans : and Art. the offspring of Earth, now dares dispute the rod of empire with Nature, the child of Heaven. Since both those states of existence enter into the constitution of man; and since matter appears upon the stage of being merely as a medium for the manifestation of spirit, it follows that the development of humanity is the development of mind. For this development the great condition is-absolute liberty. It is true that theories have, from time to time, been promulged, which, professing to aid the onward progress of humanity, would chain down thought and establish servitude throughout the entire domain of mind. Such theories may appear beautiful; but their beauty is that of a sun-reflecting iceberg; and while they attract our gaze, and arouse our admiration by the rainbow tints that play upon their surfaces they may be insidiously congealing all the healthful currents of the soul. The flashes of genius may shed a halo round them; but, like brilliant exhalations engendered in corruption. they retain, in the midst of their lustre, the traces of their noisome birth-place. Introduced into practice, they would convert science into a tideless and stagnant sea. Man, revelling in all the sensualities of the ancient Sybarite, or crushed beneath the iron heel of the despot, would float upon its slimy surface, a stench in the nostrils of Deity.

But in despite of all the vain and brilliant speculations of tyrannists, the mind claims to itself absolute liberty as the condition of its appropriate action. It knows that freedom is necessary to the complete exercise of any power. It recognizes in itself the type of that great primal Power, the Creative Energy, which moulded systems of worlds replete with harmony and beauty from out the indescribable elements of Chaos-it regards itself as the Pomethean spark derived from the eternal Sun to light up the altar-fires throughout every department of art, science and industry. Hence, it demands this, the requisite to all action and, not only does it demand it in thundertones, but in its own native energy it dashes into notkingness all the fetters which an unholy bigotry, or a cringing servility to timehenored institutions, would impose upon it.

Through a long and soul-wearying course of

time, the plots of tyrants may have been thick-

ening, and they may have thought that the trammels of a thousand years had completed the work of degradation. But the mind, like Marius amid the Carthagenian ruins, will still stand with determination depicted upon its brow, and hope gleaming from its every lineament; and when, like him, it comes back to its old domain, it will return triumphantly, crushing every power that attempted to enslave it. Glance for a moment at that period of intellectual night, the Middle Ages-that dark time, when science gleamed in weak and fitful flashes from the gloomy recesses of the cloister-when government was a solemn mummery, in which a few titled dignaturies but gave a nod, and millions trembled-when religion smiled like a seraph or glared like a demon at the will of a designing priesthood. In such a state of society, when the manifestations of mind, whether in science, politics or theology, were required to be embodied in dogmas which had received the sublime approbation of the Conclave, or the infallible sanction of some episcopal council, it is evident that there could have been no mental progress, and consequently, that humanity must have re- grave!

mained at a stand-still. Did the mind continue to cower under this priestly despotism? Look at that whirlpool of flame that dashes over the Old World, threatenterrific vortex. It is the bursting forth of mind. the great and the good in human nature come forth, like the Hebrew children from the Chaldean furnace, unharmed by the fires that mind.

ters upon the heart of humanity. unbounded license is a characteristic of the ture in the combination of her varied laws, sub- ham Lincoln, Thaddeus Stevens, and many action of any power which has suddenly freed dues and harnesses them to our every use; others who fought shoulder to bring States, in depriving him of the exercise of that itself from undue restraint. It ought not, from confusion and want bringing order and about this result, that we might be made men in then, to excite wonder, that, in process of time, plenty, as if the magic of the mind touched our own right. We should always think of them the mind rushed from one extreme to the other; her with its mystic wand, and robed her in ele- with due reverence, when we look upon the from despotism to anarchy; from superstition gance and beauty. to atheism; from groveling ignorance to a Knowledge reciprocates the divine intelli- which those men started years ago, but were science that would frame the world and explain gence, which fills all things with life and soul. called away, and others must finish in their the union of States, does not place him under believe, as the frequent mass meetings held to sympathize with you in all your sorrow, a all things without any reference to an overruling Providence, and with but little regard is not the natural view of this grand question; It is true that we have one colored Senator than they are under to him. Abraham Lincoln, cratic Central Committee testify. Not a few, to the rights of man. But, even in the midst we want the education of the masses, thereby out of seventy-one; but in his bosom; to the rights of man. But, even in the midst we want the education of the masses, thereby out of seventy-one; but in his arm; no holiness but in

which are arraigned its actions, is within its in one mental concourse, which will be an actown bosom. Whether its manifestations pro- ing power in the progress and prosperity of geed gently along, like the Pactolus, to enrich our people. the world with its golden treasures, or dash by, like the dark and turbid waters of Marah. spreading mental disease and moral desolation. it acknowledges in no external power the right

to stay its progress. As the excesses of mind, in a great measure, grow out of the restraints that are laid upon it, it follows that, with the suppression of those cease. And when the purification of society, happy termination which is hoped for by every lover of humanity-when the mandates of tyrants and the rodomontade of demagogues of patriotism,-then will the mind, unwarped by foreign will, and emancipated from inward du combat for any other political enterprise the seal of immutability.

Educational.

BY GUL. JACOBUS. We are not deficent in precedent, that in whatever form mind exists, it is not only possible to those properties originate? Do they not have tion of General Butler. root in the living, infinite intelligence of the Creator? They lie in unsystematic dreaminess ference in what has been thus far well. Old in the child; and are wild in uncertain excesses | Essex county has managed matters quite as in the uncultivated mind; and what is there well as Suffolk; and her devotion has been rebut occasional flashes of light over the opaque degenerate mass! It requires the lamp of truth lieve she wants advice, and the quantities at to illumine and give it strength for its decisions. Consult the aborigines of all ages and in all sections of the human family, in juxtaposition with those trained in Bible lands-and what is or corrupted legislation. Benjamia Butler, has the result? The radix of moral power is in the the hearts of the 13,000 whose ballots were Bible, although mysteriously associated with the mind, and when inculcated, gives to the man does his consistent record retain that love. a true knowledge of himself as a moral and free agent; and it is in this respect he stands erect in the knowledge of good and evil.

Cicero calls this natural knowledge of good evil is an attribute by which we recognize, in bond; which laws are the laws of nature. known and reciprocated by us. The Bible is the foundation of knowledge, and those who the dark," viewed from a political stand point, acquire the nearest affinity with its precepts, acquire those grand principles which are characteristic of superiority in an individual or in a nation, and inspire a confidence in the entire surrounding world, even in a commercial point of view. Take America and England, the two lands where the Bible is given to the people in their vernacular, and taught in the schools. but their classic theories inscribed on the maw-

soleum of their departed greatness! Compare those attributes of reason, and trace the hand divine! Dangerous are those awful A Voice from Southern New York agents impelled by a false light! Terrible when error is engrafted upon them by the lash of the immoral sceptic master! Whether false theology of heathen myths, or polemical perversion of the direct line of revealed truth, the result is a vicious nature and false character. But our first proposition argues : can mind be acted upon and improved by good, and made practically bad, by tuition? Why was the Bible withheld from the serf and the slave?

Is education essential to the progress of a people? "Knowledge is power," and the people who possess it are a free people, and pow-

manhood which is stamped in indelible charac- character; it utilizes the machinery of the mouldering in the dust.

Exclusive teaching, or teaching of the few, stead.

straining authority. The only tribunal before genins of every mind, and combining the whole like to see some of our Northern States throw the nation, as an atonement for the crimes and

A Voice from the Fifth (Mass.) District.

BY PICKERING. Two years ago this November, it will be re

membered that our Fifth Congressional District

was the scene of a lively canvass, which rerestraints, the excesses will proportionately sulted in a triumphant election of the chairman of the House Reconstruction Committee of the which is now going on will have come to that | Forty-first Congress against a nominee from the vicinity of the Hub. Eighty thousand majority over was the result of this victory of the people; besides, the local eminents, who are will, slike, have been hushed by the teachings now engaged in restoring the moral equilibrium of the gallant ex-postmaster of our city, hors passion, act with perfect freedom, and hold its Perhaps, in view of such pronounced defeat liberty, by virtue of charters inscribed upon the and wide-spread ruis, it were weakness to extablets of the Everlasting, and stamped with pect to find a spirited antagonist quiet, after such a recuperative period. Yet, still they come, and when a prominent daily at the Hub nominates as General Butler's successor its well known and able Washington correspondent, we are forced to ask, "Who and what are ye? whence in such questionable shape?" It's a delicate matter to decide between two royal educate it, but that it is really beneficial to the friends; but it is a fair question, why does one subject itself, and also remunerative to the in- friend create the perplexity? Does he? We structor. Therefore, let the following ques- think, not on the principle of officious friendtions be propounded: Is mind capable of ex- ship. But it is rather regarded as a joke in pansion? and is reason fortified, and those fa- this quarter; and might have failed to become culties which are in relation to it, regulated by a joke, had not the General, in the course of inculcating knowledge? What is reason? In debate over Whittemore's cadet case, denounced Latin it is ratio, to think, to suppose. In your newspapers without particularly discriminating own lexicon reason is. ' that which is thought, When one remembers the impudence and au or which is alleged in words, as the ground dacity of the Brooks letter in that case, and the cause of opinion. Speech is reason's expres- constantly recurring stories cooked up by cor sion. Reason is a faculty of the mind by which respondents in place of news, and this practice it distinguishes truth from falsehood, and good so great a hindrance during the war, and that from evil; and which enables the possessor to de- to these lies and boasted complications in ras duce inferences from facts, or from propositions." cality, may be assigned two-thirds of the pub Why do not children reason so perfectly as lic want of confidence in the "news," it is no adults? Is it not because they are not mature | wonderful that Mr. Butler indignantly repu in mental strength and capacity, and not in diated and denounced generally such a class possession of facts by tuition? Are there not and perhaps without his usual guarded diction grades of intellect from the child to the decline It is wonderful, however, that a paper free from of age? Are there not differences of this such faults, one fairly supplied by men of integpower of mind, as there are in the features and rity, as I believe the correspondents of the complexion? To return to the question of what | Boston Journal are-" Perley" in particular is reason and its relations: Speech, thought, that such a cap should be fitted on in editorial opinion, calculation, understanding, discern- Regarding Ben. Perley Poore, Esq., of the ment, recognition, conclusion, judgment, right | Journal staff at Washington as a gentleman of motives, final cause, justice, moderation, de- honor, integrity, and experience, the leader bate, argument, prudence, government, mathe- seemed humiliating, relieved only by the immatics, mechanics, philosophy, art, science, cre- partial and business-like report of Mr. Poore dence, rejection, passion, pride, humility, fear, without comment. We have since regretted,

> We know of no other motives for the interwarded with success. There is no reason to behand insure no lack when she wants it; though her masses may desire a man to represent her, who dares deny and show up a corrupted press, cast for him, a year ago last November, as well

He gave the country the first uncompromising mark of patriotism, amid the excited fire-eating democracy of the Charleston Convention. He gave the first evidence that the general and evil, law. The knowledge of good and government meant war when it put on the harness, at New Orleans, when the flag was to be the moral laws of God, our natural covenant desecrated. Gen. Wool exhibited that same spirit while, I think, at Fortress Monroe. But we cannot forget that all this was a "leap into but intensely and solely patriotic, judged by its own merits. We knew him as a Democrat, -have felt again and again his withering sarcasm, more destructive in our helplessness; but even then, we knew him undeniably a man of the people. To-day, we know him as a man of conviction, of ability and statesmanlike tendency. We want Gen. Butler to complete By it those nations have risen to be emporiums his creation-first stage, the contraband; next, of the world's confidence, and will become the the freedman; and lastly, the American citigreat depositories of its wealth; without it zen in peaceful enjoyment of political rights. they will fail, and fall to the grade of those We know Essex county wants him there, and who have not taken this privilege. Where are so do we for our Tennessee and Kentucky the accomplished Greeks, who called it foolish- friends need succor; and if all the measures in ness? Fallen, and nought remains of them | Congress are as sure of passage, as he is of the privilege of debating them as a member, more

would be done in Congress than is anticipated.

BY WM. H. LESTER.

Sin: I have just learned that such a paper as the New Era, was in existence. I hail it with much joy, as a medium through which we can speak for ourselves, or have the pleasure of reading the letters of others, who are endowed perhaps with fair views and good suggestions. I am also pleased to know that we have men of our own color among us, who feel it a duty Was it not because it would elevate his mind to start a good paper of useful influence and the Army and Navy, that it would be impossito be practical in natural law? and that it would general knowledge, and not to have to depend eat off his fetters as the sure rust, and impel entirely upon our white friends for what we him to proclaim his own freedom? And is it can supply ourselves. It is evident that we furnished food, assisted in the manufacture of not then capable of keeping him free? Wilt have men, of marked ability enough, and thou dare enslave the enlightened Bible taught | duly qualified to perform the duties as editors man? He will endure fire and sword, and of a good paper in our own ranks. And I hope shout liberty, descending down to a hopeful soon to hear from the pen of my noble friend "Frederick Douglass." The time has at last approached when we must rely upon our own resources, and I am constrained to believe, that there are men of our own complexion that can erful to keep themselves free. The well taught give us a good show of their prowess by wielding to engulf all the institutions of men in its man is a man of comparative power. Is it not ing the pen as they would the sword. And a privilege then, that every person capable of since the ratification of the fifteenth amend-Onward it swoops in its devouring course. But it, should possess it? Science and arts are the ment, we as a class must look forward for been to them just, true, and regardful of their result of tuition: which also developes and re- something more to do, than we used to do in duces into system the intuitive genius of the those days of darkness when everything was against the "Black Man." But this is a new to fight, simply because it was absolutely nethreatened their destruction. Science once Education is the food of the mind. giving it era, in which we live, and it now behooves us to cessary; the Union armies were being defeated more attempted to rend the veil from the mys- vigor, and largeness; it furnishes to the under- use all possible means to gain education, culture on every battle-field, the "flower of Northern | To the Editor of the New Era: teries of nature. Religion again directed its standing those elements of practical utility, and development; and no pains should be youth" were not coming up to die for the freeprayers to the one pure and infinite God, and which are necessary in peace as in war, for spared to gain these facilities. Without these dom of the black man as rapidly as the safety recognized in Him the only object of adora- personal, as for national prosperity and great- points we are unfit to follow the course marked of the nation demanded, hence the sable soltion. The once king-ridden rabble, now eleva- ness. The clear, well-informed judgment has out for us by the hand of destiny, and hope diers took places in the decimated armies of the ted to the rank of a free people, pressed around confidence in its own conclusions, which enable that our people in the South may not forget Union, and their pay was to be that of which in time to register as voters for the ensuing the bed of languishing—to-morrow the throne the thrones of fallen despots, and wrested from its possessor to achieve success. Knowledge what side to lend their suffrages to; and they they had been robbed, viz: their freedom. their hands the transcripts of that charter of is the basis of moral discipline; it dignifies should not forget those, whose bodies now lie

mind, and brings into active exercise the oth- I sometimes think how pleasant it must be to It is a matter of general observation, that erwise latent powers of man. It controls na- those true and "immortal" beings, viz : Abra-

Arise! thou'st earned a fit immunity;

Advance! be faithful, firm, discreet,—a Unity. of its excesses, the mind recognized no regiving form and substance to the peculiar near at hand when we can count more. I would in the war and the graves filled by defenders of "bread-and-butter policy," support for their his steps.—Hewitson.

ber to Congress; then we would feel as if things defenseless race with the sanction of the people were moving in the proper channels; but it is of the North; as evidence of this read these too much like war times-if you are not in words from his inaugural address of 1865 : the ring, or your name on the slate, you must condescend to "red tape "-consequently you that this mighty scourge of war may soon pass arouse the "inner man," regardless of the must remain outside. I am sorry, too, that a away. Yet if God wills that it continue until portion of the Republicans in this State (New York) are about to withdraw from the party, forsooth, to form a Temperance ticket. I am the lash shall be paid with another drawn by eility with which the colored votes can be inin for the cause of temperance, and I hope the the sword, as was said three thousand years fluenced in their favor. "We could buy the majority of our people are; but this will do us no good yet, materially, because there are yet neasures which must be given us, and, before some new party can be started, I fear things

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will find a retrograde movement. I think that. without the aid of the Republican party, our status as regards political liberty, and, in fact, the freedom of our brothers South, would have been literally defunct. I am of the opinion that, if those that propose to leave the Republi- necessities. can party, should succeed in forming even a minority, why it will have the effect to strengthen the Democratic party: so that we may lose the State officers again, as we did in 1868; and in that case, there comes a return of confidence to Democracy, and, in reality, I believe that they will send their secret agents and money to the South, and endeavor (to use a military phrase) to turn the enemy's weapons upon them, as we are aware that some of our people are like the whites who love the almighty dollar. It blinds them so that, if not

not be one such in the ranks. I should blush with shame to know that even one should so vote after being told who and what party to cast their suffrage for. I had to laugh to see the Democrats of Elmira, N. Y., at their municipal election, March 1st, teasing the colored men to vote on their side, telling them that they helped them at their donations and assisted them to build their churches, etc.; also saving to them that they could vote that ticket, and no one would suspect their disloyalty to the Republican party. Well, the upshot of the matter is, if they are so bold as to try and fool old voters here, in "York State," of course they will try and wheedle the colored voters of the Southern States. Watch Maryland," and see that the interior counties are properly canvassed by competent men from Baltimore. I heard enough to sonvince me how the people of some of the lower counties would go, if left to the new voters themselves:

I had some talk with a few of the leading spirits among the colored people, and the impression that I received did not set very nicely on me as a soldier, after Phad toiled, worked, and tramped over the different States for near three years; and we must suffer none to be thrown away.

You should certainly have at least one hun dred thousand subscribers for your paper.

Senator Revels Correct.

BY LEWIS H. DOUGLASS.

A correspondent of the New York Indepen dent, indulging in a criticism of the speech of Senator Revels on the Georgia bill, charges him with making a few overstatements, and says: "But when he proclaimed that the people of the North owe the colored race a deep obligation which it is no easy matter to fulfill he certainly made one. The deeper obligation is on the other side. It is true, as Mr. Revels says, that when the federal armies were thinned by death and disaster, additional force was gained in the sable soldier, who, at the eleventh hour, were mustered in to fight for the enfranchisement of their race. But before that hour came the land was planted thick with the flower of northern youth, who died for them. They fought for themselves. And the race that would not arm and fight to the death for its

own liberty, would deserve to perish." Just in what the "deeper obligation" is on the other side, the writer does not make clear, unless it be the statement that "the land was planted thick with the flower of northern youth," who died for the freedom of the black man, or in attempting to secure freedom for him. We hold that the black man is under no deep obligation to the people of the North for his enfranchisement; that the land is not planted with the flower of northern youth who died fighting for the freedom of the negro.

The fact is, the youth of the North fought to preserve the Union from disruption; and the Government of the United States was the more easily enabled to fill its armies by a declaration from Congress, made early in the war, that the institution of slavery was not to be interfered with. Officers commanding the armies of the Union, engaged in hunting down and returning to disloyal masters their slaves, and, in one or two instances, warned the black man that if he dared assert his right to liberty he should be crushed with an iron hand, and these acts were applauded throughout the North.

When it became evident to the President of the United States, as Commander-in-Chief of ble to crush the rebellion without depriving the rebels of that element of strength which ordnance, and built fortifications, he issued a proclamation emancipating slaves in the rebel lious portions of the nation. How was this received by the "flower of Northern youth?" Did they wish to take up arms to make that proclamation effectual? Our recollection is that they did not. It became necessary for the Government to pass, and enforce, conscription laws, to place before the "youth" of the North inducements in the shape of heavy bounties to take up arms and defend a country that had

At this juncture, the black man is allowed

How absurd is it to claim that to restore to a person that of which you have robbed him places him under obligation to you. We hold that the right of the black man to

freedom always existed, and that the United right, committed a gross outrage upon him, the full measure of which can never be determined. crowning acts which bloomed out in 1870, and allowing him, after much importuning on his \$2.50 a year in advance 5 Copies for \$10.

away their prejudice, and send a colored mem- countless outrages perpetrated upon a weak and

"Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be ago, so still it must be said: The judgments if the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

While the black man is deeply grateful for his enfranchisement, I trust that he will not consider himself as being under unfathomable obligation to a people for restoring to him that of which they had robbed him, such restoration being accompanied with no repentance of the wrong done, but simply wrung from their

Whistlin.

BY EPHRAIM SWANCE.

Whislin. We du not no how old the art uy whislin iz; but we hev no dowt that Noer had sum noleg uv the art, ur how wood he hev got the valler dog in the ark?

The yaller dog iz trecherus & juges uther foks by hizself, and thar 4 it must hev tuk no small amount uv whislin & coaxin such az ean b guy with the fut, &c., 2 git the valler dog 2 go in & save hizself, & the dog famile in gene looked after, they may be induced to give the Democrats a vote; but I hope that there may ral. But b-4 we go further, we say the art, & we juj it 2 b an art az much so az it iz an art fur a dog 2 kech hiz tail,-still it iz ezy enuff dun in both cases; the dog can ketch hiz tail if it is long enuff, & hiz percyverance & pashence iz ekal 2 the emergency uy the case; & enny body kin whisle if tha only no how, the it iz not every body who trize that az a whisler he iz a success. Tiz not every man that kin git up a respectable whisle, enny more than enny man cud eat uv a buzzard pot-pie unnoinly, & when told uv the fact, cud check the rizin emoshuns within hiz brost. The grate trubble seems 2 b 2 git the mouth-with which awl Simon Pare whislin shud b dun-in the proper shape. But that shud not b so much trubble, az awl u hev 2 du iz 2 git sum green persimmuns, & placin them in the mouth, slowly masticate them & swaller the juce, & if that duz not git up a good mouth far whislin, u ma az well giv it up az a bad job. We du not no who the man wuz that invented whislin, bu we r by whislin az Sanco Panza, in Don Quixot wuz by sleep. Blessed iz the man who invented sleep, sez he, & blessed iz the man who in vented whislin, sez we. Whislin duz more 2 suth our greefs-our wos allay-than enny thing we can git fur the same price. Whislin iz uzed by a grate menny peple, & fur a grate menny purposes, & we du not jest now no uv enny thing that wood conveniently take its place. Thar iz a grate menny kinds uv whislin. The Bible tells uv 7 kinds uv kissin : but we think thar iz more kinds uv whislin than that. Thar iz the common whistle which we hear almost evry time we go out uv doors uzed by nobody in partickler & every body in general. Then thars the signal whisle, thar iz the whisle fur company, that is the exklamatory whisle when u kech holt uv enny thing hot & put it down without enny body telling u, ur az if it wuz heavy. Thar iz the joyful whisle, thar iz

> sees the elephant. Thar iz the carless whisle uv the enterprizing Yankee when whitlin with hiz jack-nife, & menny more whisles cud we menshun, more esspeshally if we shud git belo the simon pure. fur instance thar iz the cheerfull whisle uv the wind uv a cold nite, & a feller about 4 miles from home without hiz overcote. Then thars the pleasant whisle uv the minne ball & bullets in general, but that'l du fur the kinds. Sum foks hev more whisle than uthers, tho awl are born with a free & ekal rite tu it. Sum foks hev sich poor whisles that tha air obleeged to wet them, & sum wet their whisle so much that u cant git a full grown whisle out uv them enny moren u "kin make a silk pus outen a sows ear." Whislin properly belongs tu the male

the whisle uv amazement az when a boy 1st

porshun uv mankind, fur tiz sed "A whislin woman & a krowin hen never cums 2 a good end." This shud b a warnin 2 wimin who im magin whislin ther fort, fur in nuthin duz persun git wus fooled than in undertakin sumthin which iz not ther fort. Like the man who sent hiz fotograft legal tenders he hed got frum a firm in Gotham 2 tresurer spinner fur redempshun found that foolin the Government in that wa wuz not hiz fort. Tho it seams tu b the fort aw sum 2 bilk Uncle Sam. Whislin kin caws menny kurius things. We hev when a boy bin sittin in the house with our Father & told a lie ur sumthin ekally instruckstive, when awl 2 wunst our ears wood b saluted with a pecular whisle, & uv a sudden we wood recollect us 2 or 3 ours to find it. We hav notist sum boys begin 2 whisle az soon az tha git in the

We hav a dog (not a yaller dog) & if we go 2 the door & whisle, it seems 2 exzert an inflewence over hiz hole body-he will cum rite up wagin his continuence. We wunce herd uv a man who had lost a dog in a misterius maner & a few daz after wards he went in 2 a butcher shop & begin 2 whisle, when a pile uv fresh sawsages started wagin to-ward him. We wood not enjoy our selves so much when we go 2 the Theater, if it wuz not fur the boys whislin in the gallery, & az whislin iz uv so much benefit. we hope awl will try & avail themselves uv the advice contained in this & try & b what tha shud b-a successful whislin.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE. Letter from Kansas City, Mo. KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 19, 1870.

Here we are in this far off city of the West,

waiting the official proclamation making the

fifteenth amendment a part of the organic law of the land. We had hoped it would reach us

register at every consecutive election. The time of registration has been extended till the time of registration has been extended till the more in this dull and oppressive element, then 21st instant, and it may be that the official all will be health and buoyancy, strength and proclamation will reach us before that time gladness, purity and peace—the body changed. expires. In the meantime, quite a canvass is being made of the colored people, and a stirring of night. You walk by faith, not by sight. appeal is given to their loyalty and immediate Yet you say, "I know that my Redemer interests with the hope that they may be inso monstrous has been its evil effect; and that interests, with the hope that they may be inallowing him, after much importuning on his fluenced to vote wisely and well. That some you. He is a Friend, a Brother, a Lord—a part, to take up arms and assist in preserving will vote otherwise, we have every reason to Friend to guide you by his counsel, a Brother fluenced to vote wisely and well. That some deeper obligations to the people of the North among them under the auspices of the Demo- Lord to defend you from all evil and make all

quare.
All advertisements occupying less than a quarter of a column are computed by the square.
Advertisements inserted for a less time than three months are charged transient rates. families, and not unfrequently "spirits" to source from whence it emanates, or the serious consequences which it entails. Democrats sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with know this, and are harping loudly on the fanigger's vote before the war," say they, "and it will be just as easy to buy it again.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

TRANSIENT ADVERTISING RATES.

RATES FOR YEARLY ADVERTISEMENTS.

The space of ten lines Brevier type constitutes an adver-

But it is to be hoped that the influence of the NEW ERA in this place will be such as to stay the tide of treason, on the one hand, and stolid indifference to duty and responsibility, on the other. Let colored men learn that with their new-born freedom come increased responsibilities. The preservation of our freedom is an important trust. It is with us to say whether freedom to our race will prove a blessing or a curse. Immunities, neglected or abused, are as mercies despised. We should likewise remember that we are scarcely free; that, however true we are no longer physically bound hand and foot with chains, still our minds are yet cramped by circumstances prevailing, which dwarf their true culture and development, and caste, the bane of society, still holds us in penal ostracism, not only before the whites, but he-

Mental slavery, in its results on the mind and character, is but little short of absolute bondage, body and soul. The mind must possess exalted ideas of freedom before its possessor resolves upon making an effort to secure his freedom; and to this exalted idea of freedom and citizenship must we come, if we succeed honorably in the new vocation to which we have been lately called.

In view of this, we rejoice at what our fellow men in Washington are doing to place before the people a paper which will be a worthy medium through which public opinion, and especially as it regards our race, may be elevated to the true standard of duty and trust.

Yours, for the right, JAMES D. BOWSER. Letter From Salem, Massachusetts.

To the Editor of the New Era:

The New Era is so opportune that it comes as a sense of duty to contribute to its support. Hitherto, my daily labor has been very hard and engrossing, rarely affording those moments of leisure which should produce the fruits of meditation, but it is otherwise now. There is one regret that a correspondence from this section has less interesting items of the progres and condition of our people; that our people have so little interest in our common weal; and it must be said, that where such interest is exhibited, it is equivocal, unsatisfactory and unproductive. The condition of all masses must be improved, because susceptible of improvement, because the general tendency of our country is toward a higher type. Of us, this may be specially said in labor matters, if none oth-

er. And the difference between our communities north and those south, in the matter of labor alone, vastly in favor of the latter, reveals the former as an apparent success. Concisely we say, that north, our labor is not essential to American industry; south, it is; and therefore, presuming upon a greater general intelligence here, than there, this fact should sound the alarm to us. I will not amplify here.

Another regret specially felt by the general

reader, who, through your columns, expects to learn the "situation" in each section, is the quiet north of Mason and Dixon's (obsolete) line, and the unrest south. The quiet is not to be regretted, if peaceable progress,-if, north, we are the index of the common destiny under favorable conditions. Shall we be? is the devoted appeal in favor of Hon. G. W. Julian by the National Executive Committee, specially, but generally, in construction, too. I could second that appeal heartily. Our's is no flippant work of sensation or "spread," but the task of impressing the minds of our people with the truly noble sentiments of the just and progressive legislation enacted in our behalf. The infection of these ideas catch readily now; and a healthier tone to-day pervades our community than it ever knew. Localisms must not choke this out. We must enlarge the sphere of our visien. We must understand, that the fifteenth amendment is the patent of a national citizenship, a step in National Reconstruction, and finally conclude, that the difficult task of all is to base ourselves firmly upon the organic law of the land. Congress initiated this. We must support it, till completed. Do we forget that the local balance of Mother lisnin 2 the story uv the boy who never | power given us by this impartial legislation, may be, as we chose, our impregnable safeguard, or our swift defeat? Boston, Indiana, and every locality, remember your duty now is we hed forgot sumthin, & we wood start down | purely national. Your interests, of the necesstairs fur it & jest az like az net it wood take sity of the hour, concentrate upon the doings of the Forty-first Congress, and its successors. Is the foundation it lays of less importance than the superstructure? Pause and reflect, and let your intelligence ably second your representative in the Senate Chamber.

I have diverged, I trust not unprofitably. To bring a correspondence from this section into harmony with the Era, may also be to take a large interest in matters affecting the community as well as the class. For the citizen not affected by class legislation, has common interests in the community.

But we trust to hear from the South, and learn "what cheer" by every issue of this valuable journal. Ethiopia shall rise and stretch her wings. We are just at this consummation. and future literature and history, despite what is said of the grand past, will see if we chose progress and a grander future. Is it too much to say, that the grandest destiny shadowed to an alien people prospectively opens to the colored Americans of to-day?

tours respectfully, FRANK H. FLETCHER. The Cross and the Crown

The cross now-the crown to-morrow. Now spring election. Under the resolution of Sena- of Jesus. What encouragement to "fight the tor Drake all desiring to vote are required to good fight of faith!" The body now bears the spirit down ; wait till the dawn of day, and the spirit will bear the body up. A few breathings the heart all holy. Even now the Lord is with you; but you cannot see him for the darkness with you-he will never leave you nor forsake things work together for your good. No safety but at his side : no comfort but in his bosom